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"Ob aber, wie die herausgeberin anzunehmen geneigt erscheint, alle die stücke von einer hand herrühren, muss doch mehr als zweifelhaft erscheinen"; and again, "In betreff der sprache hätten wir die ausführungen der herausgeberin gerne etwas vertiefter gesehen." Both reviewers, however, give its due meed of praise to the work. Since the editions of the Towneley, Coventry, and Chester Plays are now almost inaccessible, this edition cannot fail to introduce the *Mysteries* to a much wider public, and to the student of language it will prove of untold value.

JAMES M. GARNETT.

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A Study of the Anglo-Saxon Poem, *The Harrowing of Hell* (Grein's *Höllenfahrt Christi*). By JAMES HAMPTON KIRKLAND. Halle, 1885.

This pamphlet of 54 pages is a Leipzig doctor-dissertation, the contents of which embrace the following sections: Introduction, Summary of Opinion, Sources of the Poem, Cynewulf's Treatment of His Sources, Style of the Poem, Vocabulary and Grammatical Examination, Epithets and Phrases, and Versification. It is, therefore, an attempt to ascertain whether Cynewulf was the author of the poem. From his examination of the sources, the writer concludes that this poem is "no translation of the Gospel of Nicodemus, nor is it based upon it in the same sense in which *Elene* and *Juliana* are based upon their respective sources," but that "the author probably knew and had read the Gospel of Nicodemus." An examination of the way in which Cynewulf treats his sources in the *Christ* and the *Riddles* leads to the conclusion "that the relation of the *Riddles* and *Christ* to their respective sources cannot be indicated by canons made for *Elene* and *Juliana*, and that they show not so much a following of any one authority as wide reading and the use of many authors, which seems to be the way in which [this poem] has been built up from its sources." A further examination of the vocabulary and grammar, after the manner of the articles in *Anglia* of recent years by Charitius, Fritzsche, Gaebler, and Lefèvre, treating other disputed poems of Cynewulf, leads to the result that "the vocabulary is quite in accord with that of Cynewulf," though from the forms "nothing of very positive weight is gained for the question of authorship." On the whole, the writer evidently inclines to the view that Cynewulf may have written the poem without stating positively that he did write it, but the dissertation closes very abruptly, after a notice of the versification, and without a summing up of the argument, which we should have expected. Wülker has evidently given a great impulse to the study of Anglo-Saxon, especially by American students, but this statistical method of determining the authorship of works, now so much in vogue among the Germans, is apt to have more laid upon it than it will bear.

JAMES M. GARNETT.

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Ueber die Homerrecension des Zenodot, von ADOLF RÖMER. Pp. 84. München, 1885.

The school of St. Petersburg, with Nauck at its head, has long been regarded as the School for Scandal in its vilifications of the reputation of the Alexandrian critics. The exchange of hostilities between the four centres of Homeric criticism—Leyden, Munich, Königsberg and St. Petersburg—is